(*c*) The Southern Food Zone consisting of Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Mysore, Kerala and Pondicherry was constituted by the Government of India on the assumption that the surplus rice from Andhra Pradesh would freely flow to the deficit areas in the zone and that it (the South Zone) would be self-sufficient on the whole. This assumption did not, however, materialize in that there was heavy movement of paddy and rice from this State to Kerala without corresponding import from Andhra Pradesh into this State. Hence this Government requested the Government of India to constitute Madras State as a separate zone, so that the movements from this State to Kerala may be stopped.

* 5 *Q.*—SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) why the Government of India declined to split up the Southern Food Zone; and

(*b*) in the light of such decision by the Government of India, what steps are taken by the Government of Madras to solve the problem of food and scarcity of rice in our State?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) & (*b*) The Government of India have not communicated the reasons that weighed with them in not agreeing to the request of this Government to split up the Southern Rice Zone and constitute the Madras State into a separate unit. They have, however, offered to supply up to one lakh tons of rice to meet the requirements of this State during the current year.

* 6 *Q.*—SRI A. VEDARATHNAM : கனம் உள்விவகார அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் தயவு செய்து பதிலளிப்பாரா—

(அ) சமீபத்தில் டில்லியில் நடந்த தென் உணவு மண்டலக் கூட்டத்தில் செய்யப்பட்ட முடிவுகள் என்ன ?

(ஆ) அதன்பேரில் நம் மாநில சர்க்கார் எடுக்க உத்தேசித்திருக்கும் நடவடிக்கை என்ன ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) A meeting of the Food Ministers of the Southern States and the Union Food Minister was held soon after the meeting of the National Development Council in April 1959 to discuss the role of the Southern Food Zone under the Scheme of State Trading contemplated by the Government of India. This Government expressed the view that inasmuch as the zone was not working properly, it would be better to split it up and make Madras a separate unit. The Government of India have stated that it is not possible to split up the zone at present.

(*b*) The matter will be taken up with the Government of India again at the appropriate time.

SRI S. LAZAR : சென்னை மாகாணம் தென் பிராந்திய ஜோனிலிருந்து விடுபட்டுத் தனியாக இருந்தால் விலைவாசிகள் சரியான முறையில் கட்டுப்படுத்த முடியும் என்ற காரணத்தினால் இந்தக் கருத்து வற